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Forty-eighth session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Letter dated 1 September 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "Emergency assistance to the Republic of Moldova".

Please find attached the letter addressed to His Excellency Boutros Boutros-Ghali by His Excellency Mircea Snegur, the President of the Republic of Moldova. The letter contains the reasons which forced our Government to request the emergency assistance of the international organizations, including the United Nations, and is submitted in accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, as an explanatory memorandum (see annex).

Let me also note that the damage caused by the drought, hurricane and floods is now estimated at 600 million United States dollars.

Several dozen people were killed and tens of thousands left homeless. The hurricane and floods destroyed part of what remained of Moldova's crops after a prolonged summer drought which was one of the worst in living memory. Moldova will again be forced to import grain and other products to feed its citizens. The economic damage may reverse our country's recent progress towards balancing its budget and derail the Government's reform programmes.

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

Excellency, your attention and kind assistance in this matter will be highly appreciated.

(Signed) Tudor PANTIRU
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Moldova to the
United Nations

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

Letter dated 1 September 1994 from the President of the Republic of Moldova to the Secretary-General

The Republic of Moldova has recently celebrated the third anniversary of its independence. During this period of time, the social, political and economic life of our country has been characterized by many important transformations in our society's movement towards democracy and a market economy, and the creation of the State based on the principles of law and integration in the international community.

We can affirm that a certain success, making this process irreversible, has been achieved. This year the first democratic parliamentary elections have taken place and the new Constitution of the Republic of Moldova has been adopted.

Although we should state that, regrettably, not everything depends on the will and desire of the Government and the citizens of the country. Thus, the national economy has been extremely affected by the consequences of a disastrous drought - the most severe one during the last seventy years. The losses are enormous and practically irreparable.

The situation has been extremely aggravated, owing to the recent natural calamities. On 11 and 12 August, the central and north regions of the republic suffered seriously from a hurricane, accompanied by rains with hail. As a result of the calamities, 10,600 houses, 35 schools and preschool institutions, as well as 80 medical institutions have deteriorated, and 55 kilometres of electric power lines and 40 kilometres of telephone lines, 30,000 hectares of sown area and 5,000 hectares of gardens, etc. have been destroyed. There are dead and wounded.

During the night of 26 August 1994, heavy showers, with disastrous consequences, fell on practically the whole territory of the country. Floods have taken away lives of nearly 50 persons. Approximately 1,700 private houses, 200 schools, as well as hospitals and economic infrastructure have been destroyed. Losses are estimated at approximately 300 mln lei (US$ 75 million).

The day of 28 August 1994 was declared a day of mourning for the whole territory of Moldova.

Highly appreciating the great attention that the United Nations Organization accords to our country, and on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, I address to you the request to find the means of rendering urgent humanitarian assistance to the victims of the natural calamities. First of all, we need grain, flour, medicine, clothes and construction materials.

Hoping that our appeal will be heard, I ask you to accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mircea SNEGUR

APPENDIX

Draft resolution

Emergency assistance to the Republic of Moldova

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned about the extensive damage and devastation caused by the severe drought, followed by a hurricane and the unprecedented floods in the Republic of Moldova,

Noting with concern the destruction of thousands of dwellings and the damage to major sectors of the national infrastructure,

Recognizing the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Moldova to provide relief and emergency assistance to the people affected by the flood and hurricane,

Noting that the earnest efforts of the Government of the Republic of Moldova to promote the economic reform programmes will be hampered by these calamities,

1. Declares its solidarity with the Government and people of the Republic of Moldova in their affliction;

2. Commends the efforts of the international community, including the organs and organizations of the United Nations system, to supplement the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Moldova in relief operations and emergency assistance;

3. Requests all States and international organizations to extend, on an urgent basis, further support to the Republic of Moldova to alleviate the economic and financial burden borne by the Moldovan people;

4. Calls upon the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system and in close cooperation with the Government authorities, to assist in the rehabilitation efforts of the Government of the Republic of Moldova.